

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4 stand rejected. Claims 5-6 have been objected to. Claims 7-24 are allowed. By the present amendment, claims 1, 5, and 6 have been amended. The Examiner's reconsideration of the claim rejections in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge Examiner's indication that claims 7-24 are allowed.

Claim Objections:

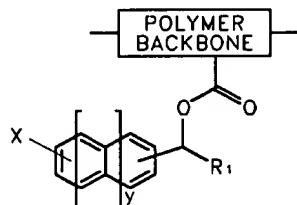
The Office action is silent with respect to claims 5-6. In a telephonic interview with the Examiner, the Examiner indicated that claims 5-6 stand objected to for depending from a rejected base claim.

Claims 5 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim 1 and any intervening claims. Thus, Applicants believe that claims 5 and 6 as amended are allowable.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stolka et al. (U.S. 4,117,239).

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, *A photosensitive polymer having an acid-labile protecting group represented by the formula:*



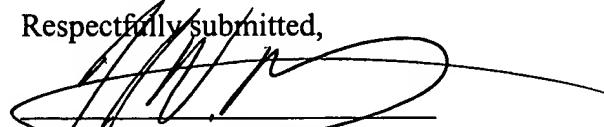
wherein the acid-labile protecting group comprises a fused aromatic ring; R₁ is alkyl group having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms; X is fluorine or an alkoxy; and y is an integer from 1 to 3.

With respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that there is nothing in Stolka that discloses a photosensitive polymer comprising, *inter alia*, an acid-labile protecting group comprising a fused aromatic ring, as shown above, where R₁ is alkyl group having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, X is a fluorine or an alkoxy, and y is an integer from 1 to 3. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the photosensitive polymer with the acid-labile protecting comprising a fused aromatic ring and the functional groups listed above as claimed in claim 1 of the present invention is patentably distinct and not anticipated Stolka.

Since claims 2-4 depend, directly and indirectly, from claim 1, claims 2-4 are believed to be patentably distinct and patentable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons given above for claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

By:

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. McNally
Reg. No. 48,609
Attorney for Applicant

F.Chau & Associates
1900 Hempstead Turnpike, Suite 501
East Meadow, NY 11554
(516) 357-0091
(516) 357-0092